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January 9, 2002

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney - Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street, NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

In addition to serving in the North Carolina House of Representatives from Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties, I am also a small businessman. In the state legislature I serve on the Science and Technology Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Information Technology.

In those posts, I am one of the decision makers as to where the state of North Carolina is able to spend its money on technology. From that perspective and in my own business, I realize what a big difference Microsoft has made in the working lives of millions of Americans.

I have, in the past, been the author of articles concerning the Microsoft situation in which I take the position that the lawsuit filed by the federal government was unhealthy for the high-tech sector in particular but for business in general.

A major decline in Microsoft stock and in the shares of many high-tech companies happened the day following a breakdown in negotiations between Microsoft, the federal government, and the states' attorneys general who would not agree to a settlement. The pain inflicted on so many people's savings and stock accounts was mighty. Of course, the Microsoft incident was not the only reason for stock to go down, but it was one reason.



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Today, I understand that Judge Kollar-Ketelly has a reasonable settlement that has been approved by the company, the federal government, as well as nine of the states which had formerly sued Microsoft, including New York.

I would heartily endorse this settlement and hope that the good judge would as well. All parties need to move forward.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Harrington

Representative Michael O. Harrington
District 76
North Carolina General Assembly

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